

The Gospel of Matthew

Title: The Mission

Text: Matthew 10:5-15

Introduction/Aim: The overall mission of the Christian, even today is to preach the gospel.

POINT 1 - JESUS SENDS THEM OUT (VS. 5A)

The word sent out is a verb that means “to order, to go to an appointed place.” It literally carries the idea of “sending away.” First, they didn’t go on their own. Jesus had already said “follow me” now he sends them out. God puts the desire in man’s heart to serve Him. In the calling of a pastor in 1 Timothy 3:1, “It is a trustworthy statement: if any man aspires (desires) the office of an overseer, it is a fine work he desires to do.” In terms of their going out, it was God who called and sent them. Don’t go on your own.

POINT 2 - HE INSTRUCTED THEM (VS. 5B)

He instructed them “to transmit, to charge.” We have instructions today not only for ministry, but for our own Christian lives. Proverbs 11:3a, “The integrity of the upright will guide them.” James 3:13, “Who among you is wise and understanding? Let him show by his good behavior his deeds in the gentleness of wisdom.” 1 Peter 1:15, “but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior.” 1 Peter 2:12, “Keep your behavior excellent among the Gentiles, so that in the thing in which they slander you as evildoers, they may because of your good deeds, as they observe them, glorify God in the day of visitation.”

NOTE: These aren’t options you choose, holiness, obedience. God sets the standard and gives the order, it’s our responsibility to obey. God doesn’t require innovation or creativity, only obedience. 1 Corinthians 4:2, “Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.”¹ Many aren’t preachers, missionaries or teachers, but every Christian is called to be faithful in sharing the gospel of Christ.

POINT 3 - SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS (VS. 5C-6)

Where are they to go? Not to the Gentiles nor the Samaritans. This is only restricted to their first mission. Why may we ask? Matthew Henry notes, “*The Gentiles must not have the gospel brought them, till the Jews have first refused it.*” I think it’s an affirmation of Romans 1:16, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.”

POINT 4 - WHAT ARE THEY TO DO? (VS. 7)

This command is the essence of the gospel, and still is today. I am drawn to the point in the text “and as you go” which I think implies a great truth for us today. Preaching, proclaiming the gospel isn’t for a specific time, but it’s as we go. Yes, the Lord’s Day is centered around the worship of God’s word, but as you go means you are to proclaim the message of the gospel. The message they

¹ ESV

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are to proclaim is the kingdom of God. A kingdom ruled by our sovereign God. That's the simplicity of the message.

Preach *“to herald, proclaim, publish.”* Jesus appointed them to preach. Wherever they went, whatever they did, they were to preach. Matthew Henry comments on this text, *“Not that they must say nothing else, but this must be their text; on this subject they must enlarge: let people know, that the kingdom of the Messiah, who is the Lord from heaven, is now to be set up according to the scriptures; from whence it follows, that men must repent of their sins and forsake them, that they might be admitted to the privileges of that kingdom.”* Again Mark clarifies this command, *“They went out and preached that men should repent”* (Mark 6:12).

The message of Jonah wasn't one of repentance, it was one of judgment, Jonah 3:4, *“Then Jonah began to go through the city one day's walk; and he cried out and said, Yet forty days and Nineveh will be overthrown.”* The Psalmist describes the salvation of the Lord in Psalms 85:9-10, *“Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him, That glory may dwell in our land. Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other.”*

It's the same message. Matthew 3:2, *“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* In Matthew 4:17 at the beginning of His public ministry, *“From that time Jesus began to preach and say, Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”* It is true that we need the truth preached upon us time and time again, lest we forget. His word is fresh to us. His truth resonates deeply as we hear it over and over. Thus the message of repentance was and always will be the gospel. Hebrews 13:8, *“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”* You may quote that verse often, but believe it, and believe it now. The message of the gospel hasn't changed. NOTE: There is a kingdom yet to come. We must speak of it. We must tell others of it. Stop with the Dr. Phil gospel and proclaim the living word of truth.

POINT 5 - HOW THEY WERE TO DO IT (VS. 8)

Dr. John MacArthur calls this text the “confirming credentials.” The power which He gave them was to confirm their doctrine. He empowered them to confirm it by the same divine miracles. These miracles aren't necessary now. The doctrine of Christ settled, the Word of God settled, and now to ask for these miracles or proclaim them is to ask God for more signs.

It was a sign of the early church, 1 Corinthians 12:12, *“The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”* Miracles were a sign of who God is, John 9:32-33 on the healing of a blind man, *“Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.”* The miracles they performed created wonder and demonstrated the character of God. Freely received the power of God, now freely give.

NOTE: The power of God exists today. It exists in our spiritual growth, the providence of God in our lives, in the redeeming power of God. We see His miracles of healing. This is never more true

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than in Ephesians 2:5, “even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved.”

POINT 6 - HOW GOD WILL PROVIDE (Vs. 9-10)

Matthew Henry says, “*They are to live by divine providence, and they must be taught to live by taking no thought for their life.*” This was a lesson Jesus was teaching them at the Sermon on the Mount, “*For this reason I say to you, do not be worried about your life, as to what you will eat or what you will drink; nor for your body, as to what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing?*” (Matthew 6:25). The same applies today as we live life under the sun here. God is providential. Doesn't mean you don't work. It means you trust God to provide as you take mission trips, pastor churches, do the work of God. Jehovah-jireh, let the Lord provide for us and ours as he thinks fit.

A worker is worthy of his meat as the AV says and some translate it food. *They must not expect to be fed by miracles, as Elijah was: but they might depend upon God to incline the hearts of those they went among, to be kind to them, and provide for them.*² 1 Corinthians 9:13-14, “*Do you not know that those who perform sacred services eat the food of the temple, and those who attend regularly to the altar have their share from the altar? So also the Lord directed those who proclaim the gospel to get their living from the gospel.*” The point being, God will provide all you need to do the work of the gospel. NOTE: If you are led to the mission field, God will provide. If you are led to pastor in the great northwest, God will provide. If God wants to use you to start a local ministry, He will provide. He does here at MCBC, He has here.

POINT 7 - THOSE THAT FEAR GOD AMONG THE WICKED (Vs. 11-14)

They were commanded to inquire who was worthy, not who the riches were, the most well off, but those who held some fear of God. Some who in the midst of the house of Nero were believers. Some in the midst of wicked rulers, knew the message of God. It's the same as when Paul arrived in Rome, “*There we found some brethren, and were invited to stay with them for seven days; and thus we came to Rome*” (Acts 28:14).

Note: For those who will accept the message, bless them, stay with them. But there are those who when they hear will refuse the gospel. John 5:40, “*and you are unwilling to come to Me so that you may have life.*”

There are those who reject God and the Gospel. When a house or city was so contemptuous of the apostles and the message they were to shake off the dust of their feet. It's symbolic as Jews who traveled to pagan lands would literally shake off dust as to not bring pagan soil into their home. For the apostles to shake off the dust of their feet was in essence saying they were out of the reach of God. When the Jews incited devote women and people of prominence against Paul, he shook off

² <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2010&version=NASB1995> (Matthew Henry Commentary)

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the dust of his feet, “**But they shook off the dust of their feet *in protest* against them and went to Iconium**” (Acts 13:51).

This is not to say that if someone rejects the gospel message at first not to go back to them nor to quit speaking to them. Many of you are having long conversations over the years about the gospel. Paul showed this persistence in 2 Corinthians 5:20, “**Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.**” **NOTE:** you should rejoice today that God was long suffering with you. He didn’t put you out to pasture at first. He endured your foolishness.

When a person’s mind is fully set against God, you should turn our efforts to others. I think Hebrews 6:4-6 define this well, “**For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and *then* have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God and put Him to open shame.**” This isn’t speaking of losing your salvation. It speaks of seeing, being around the miracles, agreeing with them, but in the end, not believing. It speaks of those who reject God’s word. It speaks of those who appear to be with Him, but in deed are not.

Jesus explains the judgment to come. Those two cities were destroyed by God. And today, for those who reject the gracious saving grace of God, face an even worse fate in the day of judgment. The word “tolerable” means to endure. Jesus is saying that the wicked, vile, hideous environment of Sodom and Gomorrah is more tolerable than for those who reject the message of the gospel of repentance. It seems that all the pains of hell are intolerable, but some more than others. Sodom and Gomorrah suffer eternal fire, cf. Jude 1:7, exceedingly wicked in Genesis 13:13, “**Now the men of Sodom were wicked exceedingly and sinners against the Lord**”, and instead of listening to the angels sent to them they attempted to abuse them, cf. Genesis 19:4-5.

Given the state of wickedness from this ancient city, Jesus says those who willfully reject the gospel are in worse shape! A few closing thoughts.

- God has called you and sent you to share and do His work, no matter if you're a pastor, missionary or teacher. You should “preach” the message of repentance to all you can.
- Saving grace is a work of God. Just proclaim it, trust God to do His work. God will always make a way for His gospel work
- Still pray for those who willingly reject the gospel. Pray the Lord will turn their hearts into a heart of flesh.